

Network *in the* News

Connecting with the Community



Small businesses and individuals participated in the First Lady of California, Maria Shriver's WEConnect Fair on March 19 at Long Beach City College. The event, sponsored by Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network, City of Long Beach, Intuit, Small Business Development Centers, and Broad Spectrum, increased awareness about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Through the EITC, families earning less than \$50,000 annually could receive up to \$4,700, which could result, if everyone eligible claims it, in adding more than \$5 billion in the California economy.

The more than 300 attendees took advantage of resource information given by local community agencies, VITA tax preparation, ICAN tax preparation, and a small business seminar.

For more information on free tax services for individuals or businesses that earn less than \$50,000, please call 562.570.4794/TTY 562.570.4629.



Youth Opportunity Center Facility Update

Creation of the new Youth Opportunity Center (YOC) which will have a new youth friendly atmosphere, will be completed shortly and staff should be moving in by the end of May. The YOC will be located on the second floor of the Network's Bixby Knolls facility.

With the YOC staff moving from the third floor to the second floor, more third floor offices will be available for Career Transition Center services. Network Operations staff and Network partners including Goodwill, EDD, WINTER, Ability First, Family Literacy, Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Social Services, Disability Program Navigators will be better located so that their functions are in one location.



The Network Welcomes Torrance

Welcome to Davi Dancy, Los Angeles/South Bay Workforce Service Field Manager; Vivien Nguyen, Torrance Site Manager; and the Torrance staff! Many of you met them at our last all staff meeting, but wanted to know how to contact them. Give them a call at 310.732.2101. If you need to mail something, the office address is 1220 Engracia Ave., Torrance, 90501.

HIRE a YOUTH Has Gone YouTube!

The excitement of the Pacific Gateway's 9th Annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day and news about our upcoming Youth Opportunity Fair is now on YouTube.

Just go to **www.hireayouth.com** to check it out!

Employers Wanted!

Employers and resource organizations will have a unique opportunity to meet with more than 1,000 work ready young adults – all at one time and in one place. The Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network and the Youth Council of the Workforce Investment Board will be hosting the 4th Annual Youth Opportunities Fair on May 29, at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center from 3-7 pm.

Employers will be able to discuss immediate and upcoming employment opportunities with young adults ages 16 – 24, and other work-readiness resources will be provided for youth ages 14 and older.

If you know of a business or non-profit agency that might be interested in being an exhibitor or wants more information on the event, log onto pacificgatewayworkforce.com

Getting Prepared for the Fair

In preparation for the 4th Annual Youth Opportunities Fair in May, the Youth Opportunity Center has scheduled more than 50 work-readiness workshops. At the workshops, youth learn job fair etiquette, how to market themselves to an employer, interviewing techniques, helpful hints on completing job applications, and how to draft a resume. The workshops are being provided at area high school campuses and throughout the community. Check out www.hireayouth.com for times and dates.



Youth Opportunities



The Youth Opportunity Center has been buzzing with activity in recent months with the start of several programs.

A new session of the Inspired Internship Program began with 93 youth participants working at 34 businesses and government or nonprofit agencies in the area. The internship, which runs through June, provides youth (16-24 years old) with work readiness training and job coaching. Through this program youth gain valuable work experience and connections to the workforce they could enter in the near future. The interns are from Poly, Wilson, EPHS, Renaissance, Millikan, Cabrillo, Reid, Jordan, Lakewood, and PAAL high schools, as well as Long Beach City College and Cal State Dominguez Hills.

The Spring Jobs Program also currently has more than 60 youth participants in work-readiness training and/or work experience with non-profit organizations and public sector. Additional youth will be recruited and placed before the end of the program in June.

In a new venture, Youth Opportunity Center staff are working in collaboration with Banning High School, the International Trade and Economic Program, and the Port of Los Angeles to provide work-readiness training to youth and work experience to more than 60 youth interested in working at the Ports or related industry.

To find out more about our youth programs, contact the Youth Opportunity Center 562.570.4700/ TTY 562.570.4629 or visit www.hireayouth.com.

Another Success for the Construction Jobs Program!



On March 7, 14 students successfully graduated from the Construction Jobs Program at the Center for Working Families, 1900 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach.

The Construction Jobs Program provides training in multiple safety certifications; prepares students for Union Apprenticeship exams; assists in resume writing and practice interviews; and facilitates meetings with representatives from unions.

For more information on construction programs call 562.570.WORK/TTY 562.570.4629 or check out the High Demand, High Growth Industries site at pacifigatewayworkforce.com



Recruitments

Women in Law offered at Harbor WorkSource

The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department's *Women in Law Enforcement Recruitment* was held at the Harbor WorkSource Center, 1851 N. Gaffey Street, #F, San Pedro, on March 28. Openings for Deputy Sheriff Trainee and Sheriff Custody Assistant positions, with salaries between \$3,337-\$4,136 per month, were available. Of the 18 attending the recruitment, 16 went on for testing. Because of the success of this recruitment, the Sheriff's Department anticipates another recruitment session in the future.



CRST hires through the CTC!

On March 5, the Career Transition Center, 3447 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, held a recruitment for Class A Driver positions with CRST, one of the largest, most successful trucking companies in the United States. Salary for this position ranged from \$440-to-\$990 per week depending on experience. Benefits included immediate medical coverage and a 401K plan after 90 days. Forty-three individuals interested in Class A license or Training participated in the recruitment, and 13 were offered employment. CRST will hold on going recruitments at the Network Centers.

Visit pacificgatewayworkforce.com to check for information on upcoming recruitments.



Learning Lab

As one of 12 one-stop Centers selected to serve as a California Learning Lab, the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network has the opportunity to create a new model for Workforce Development: the integration of WIA and EDD. The Lab will generate **a new skill-based** service delivery model that merge customer pools through a common set of demand-driven services with combined staffing. Staff is meeting regularly to develop new procedures and protocols, and is already testing some of the draft procedures in the Career Transition Center's Welcome Area. Keep posted - by the end of April, you will be able to read about our efforts on line.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 562.570.3738 or TTY 562.570.4629, at least 72 hours prior to event.

Network In the News

Editor: Jennifer Angeles
Email your Network news to
Jennifer_angeles@longbeach.gov